



SPANISH DESERTERS COMING INTO THE AMERICAN LINES.

From the very first day that General Shafter's invading army set foot on Cuban soil at Siboney, hunger has proved stronger than patriotism with the Spanish troops. In spite of the stories, industriously circulated by the Spanish officers, that the Americans slaughtered every prisoner that fell into their hands, deserters are flocking into the American camp. The above sketch, by a Journal artist at the front, shows a group of starving Spanish soldiers surrendering to one of General Wheeler's picket outposts. They are vigorously waving a white flag to show that, as far as they are concerned, the cruel war is over.

"HOLD THE FORT, FOR I AM COMING!"--MILES.

The Commander of the Army Starts for Santiago to Take Command of Our Forces.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—Major-General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the army, left Washington to-night at 10:43 o'clock for Charleston, S. C., en route to the field of battle at Santiago de Cuba. He was accompanied by the members of his staff—General Stone, General Gilmore, Colonel Maus and Colonel Greenleaf, chief medical officer. The General is to take the first vessel out of Charleston for Santiago.

General Miles instructed General Shafter to-day to preserve the status at Santiago until the arrival of reinforcements. General Miles, according to present advices at the War Department, will arrive at Santiago with the reinforcements.

Miles to Take Command.

General Miles is to assume command of the American army at Santiago, and every military and naval expert here is well pleased. On Sunday President McKinley determined to have General Miles go to the front. The Journal announced the fact, and since then "authoritative denials" have appeared.

General Miles's departure sets at rest all questions of past accuracy on the part of the newspapers.

Since last Saturday it has been obvious to the President that the commander at Santiago should be a person in good physical condition. General Shafter is plucky and energetic, but he labors under the disadvantage of weighing 310 pounds—a serious matter in a tropical country—and in addition is troubled with varicose veins, which a week ago became so distressingly painful that he was unable to draw on his boots.

The President, while fully conceding General Shafter's heroism in struggling as gallantly as he did, shared the annoyance felt by the Navy Department in Shafter's failure to carry out the plan of campaign mapped out for him here. It was agreed here that nothing could be gained by the occupation of Santiago until Cervera's squadron was destroyed. With that point in view the military plan decided upon involved the making of only a feint at El Caney, which is northeast of Santiago, while the main attack was to be against the intrenchments surrounding the plateau upon which Morro stands.

Battle Plans Upset.

In the execution of this plan it became completely reversed. El Caney was the principal battleground, while the demonstration against the Morro heights proved a reverse, owing to General Duffield's failure to advance across the Aguadores River, although Sampson shelled the western extremity of the bridge and the country adjacent thereto twice to clear the way for Duffield.

Admiral Sampson, in dispatches to the Navy Department, be-

trayed great irritation at Duffield's failure to cross the Aguadores River, and much of the failure to take this important position is, in department circles, attributed to the Michigan general, and the Michigan regiments who had the Aguadores point to contest.

The departure of General Miles should have a tendency to stop the friction in the War Department between the commanding general and the Secretary of War. Secretary Alger has distinctly disapproved of Miles going to the front, and the General's departure to-night was opposed by the Secretary. Secretary Alger has not interfered with the plans of Miles's enemies, who have diligently sought to effect a block to the ambitions of the general commanding the army.

In this scheme several prominent army officers, on duty in Washington, have been involved. A remarkable feature of military service since the war began lies in the fact that the desires and plans of the head of the army have been successfully interrupted.

Plans Likely to be Changed.

General Miles will have powers in Cuba second only to those of the President. He is expected to retrieve our fortunes at Santiago and will inaugurate a new plan of campaign if events have not so far progressed as to make it impossible to do anything but continue on the present lines.

General Miles's original plan was to land the army at Port de Banes, on the north coast of Cuba, and about fifty miles away from Santiago. He proposed to attack the city from the north and west. He strongly advised going against the intrenchments. According to modern military rules an intrenched position requires that the attacking force shall be twice as great as the resisting force.

The General was overruled by Secretary Alger, and the expedition sailed for Baiquiri. General Miles accepted the War Department's plans under protest and advised that the key of the situation was the coral plateau upon which Morro Castle stands. The approach to it is the Aguadores railroad along the seashore, and thence by a valley leading west up to the heights. Shafter, or circumstances, reversed this plan, and in addition, Pando entered the city, although General Miles had specifically instructed and dwelt on the necessity of having a large part of the army to the north and west of the city.

Summed up, the situation is this: Shafter, while inflicting heavy losses on the Spaniards, has suffered considerable loss himself; the Spaniards still hold the intrenchments; Pando has joined Linares, and General Luque is at El Longo with 9,000 men, threatening Shafter's flank and ready to strike at Sevilla or Siboney. It will now require 50,000 to 60,000 troops to dislodge Linares, Pando and Luque, if they make the junction, which there is nothing to prevent.

General Miles will report to the President immediately after he has looked over the ground. He is in favor of an attack on Morro Castle against its western front by a division landed at Cabanitas Bay. Above this bay there is a plateau which overlooks the Socapa battery, and on which guns can send a steady fire against Morro.

Sampson, at the same time, will bombard the sea front, with a simultaneous assault by storm on the eastern side via the Aguadores railroad and valley. Such a plan, forcibly executed, it is believed, could not fail to result in success, in which event the fleet could enter the harbor, blowing up the mines and torpedoes as it slowly advanced.

Should Linares surrender the problem will be solved as happily as Cervera solved the problem in which he was the chief factor. While the desertions from the Spanish ranks are significant, War Department officials are not ready to lay too much store on such a development.

The popular belief in army circles is that Linares will evacuate the city in the night and retreat to the mountains. He would not do this until he saw that the American army was growing too strong and would eventually surround the city. To thoroughly surround the city would require lines twenty-five miles long.

SCHLEY'S PROMOTION DELAYED BY SAMPSON.

Failure to Report on the Santiago Fight Prevents Action by Congress.

Washington, July 7.—The friends of Commodore Schley are much annoyed at Admiral Sampson's failure to promptly report to the Department on the destruction of Cervera's squadron. Usually such reports are telegraphed. Much less important events have been deemed worthy of description by wire by Admiral Sampson since the war began.

The Admiral's failure to mention Schley by name in his bulletin of the engagement created great feeling in Congressional and Department circles, and the fact that he is evidently trusting to the mails to bring his official report, including recommendations and praise for gallantry, has intensified the belief that Admiral Sampson experienced a feeling of disappointment in not being personally in command when Cervera's squadron made its dash for liberty.

The result is there will be no promotions based on the gallantry and intelligence displayed in the fight with Cervera, unless Sampson's report arrives to-morrow. All promotions are made by Congress. The President never makes recommendations to Congress for promotion until the commanding officer reports to his department, and the department submits the recommendation to the President. Therefore, no Congressional action can be taken until Sampson's report is received, and Congress will adjourn on Saturday.

This means that Schley, who outranks Sampson by one number, will continue to be subordinate to Sampson until Congress meets again, when the war will probably be over.

Administration and Congressional circles generally believe that Schley is entitled to the promotion to Rear-Admiral, and, as told in this morning's Journal, the intention was to advance Sampson to same grade. The latter's peculiar dilatoriness in view of the circumstances, which he is experienced enough to understand, is arousing anything but a friendly feeling toward him.

SPAIN BADLY SCARED ABOUT HER COAST.

Madrid, July 7.—A Cabinet meeting lasting three hours, and presided over by the Queen Regent, was held this afternoon, and another meeting of the Ministers, at which Premier Sagasta presided, was held to-night.

The newspapers here say they foresee international complications if the Americans bombard the Spanish coast.

A Spanish Cabinet Minister is quoted in an interview as saying that the present Government of Spain will devote itself solely to the defence of the Spanish coasts, and that if negotiations for peace must be opened they will have to be conducted by another Government.

The Spanish version of the sinking of the war ship Alfonso XII. is that she was chased by three American war ships while attempting to enter the port of Mariel, and that her commander purposely ran her ashore in order to avoid capture. The official report adds that the Americans fired 600 shells at the Alfonso XII., and that the ship is a complete loss. It is further said that the crew of the cruiser and "part of her cargo" were saved.

A dispatch from Santiago says 140 of the sailors who belonged to Admiral Cervera's squadron have reached that place.

The dispatches announcing the destruction of the Spanish cruiser Reina Mercedes at the entrance of the harbor of Santiago are not believed here, on the ground that the vessel was nothing more than a hulk, and that it was impossible to navigate her. It is said here that the Spaniards must have sunk the Reina Mercedes themselves in order to block the entrance of the harbor.

Gibraltar, July 7.—Spain has decided to erect new batteries with modern ordnance on Green Island, opposite Gibraltar. Two batteries of artillery arrived at Algeiras last evening, and will be placed on Cabrera Point.

TO ROUND UP THE LAST SPANISH SHIP.

Washington, July 7.—The navy is preparing for a grand hunt throughout the West Indies. There are several Spanish war craft left, scattered through coves on the Cuban coast, and lying in obscure little harbors in the West Indian Islands. These are to be hunted down and captured or destroyed, and the movement is to begin immediately, for until the Gulf and Caribbean Sea have been cleared of these little craft, no troop transports can be said to be entirely safe while passing between the United States and Cuba.